

May 11, 1983

LB 273

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you. Now I don't blame Senator Hefner for doing this. He is doing it for the for profit nursing homes. I want to remind you of one thing. The Nebraska Association of Homes for the Aged, the nonprofit nursing homes are behind this bill 100 percent. They want their people trained. They have written letters saying, we don't even let them go to work in our nursing home until they are trained. This is a very bad amendment and I'm going to ask you, Senator Hefner, if you got sick tomorrow and had to spend the next six months in a nursing home, can you in all truth and honesty say you wouldn't want the people taking care of you to have any training and that they not have any requirement for any number of hours. I can understand you're saying, leave it up to the Health Department. The Health Department, that sounds pretty good but leaving it the way it is at least says we're going to have a minimum of 20 hours. Right now I think we've got a great Director of Health but who knows who's going to be there four years, eight, ten, twelve years from now. Maybe some fellow that listens to political hacks, maybe some fellow who's bought off by nursing home association says, no we're not going to train them. We're not going to require 20 hours. Senators, all I can say is, if the other nursing homes are giving training, why in the name of God is the Nebraska Health Care Association fighting it so much and why is Senator Hefner saying, that when he goes to a nursing home or his wife, he doesn't want anything in the law that says there has to be a minimum, a minimum hours of training for those people that are working for them 24 hours a day. Remember RNs and LPNs are only in 70 percent of the nursing homes 24 hours a day or 30 percent. The other 70 percent don't have RNs and LPNs 24 hours a day so it's really the nurse's aides, Senator Hefner, that will be taking care of you and me someday, maybe. So I urge you to rethink this and stick with the 20 hours you've got in the bill now and you'll be happy maybe later on when you and I get old and grayer. Thank you, Senators.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp. Let's have a...

SENATOR DECAMP: Call the question.

PRESIDENT: The question, do I see five hands? I do. The question is shall the debate cease. All those in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. Motion is, shall the debate...the question is, shall the debate cease. Please record your vote. Clerk will record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hefner, you're entitled to close. May we have ~~order~~...continue please? Let me say first, too, that